

Summary of Progress

The fifth quarter covered the period of July 1 to September 30, 2003. In October, quarterly status reports, summarizing watershed work plan progress, were submitted by 17 of the 18 grantees. East Stanislaus RCD submitted its quarterly report very late. The district's watershed coordinator left the position and the district had difficulty hiring a replacement. The Department of Conservation (DOC) staff is working closely with the grantee to keep the grant on target.

The information received from the grantees has been reviewed by the DOC staff, and is presented in this report. The grantee reports are listed alphabetically and each is formatted as an individual fact sheet. For each grant, progress on objectives and performance measures are reported. Please refer to the individual grantee fact sheets for details.

We are pleased to report that the major accomplishments of the 18 coordinators thus far are as follows:

- ◆ **Over \$6.6 million in additional watershed funding has been obtained thus far by the watershed coordinators.** This amount is \$470,000 more than the total that was reported last quarter. This additional funding is the result of grant writing and fund-raising activities conducted by the coordinators.
- ◆ **Established one new stewardship group and a Farm Conservation Plan Program to assist farmers.**
- ◆ **Established demonstration sites, and conducted watershed tours and education days.**
- ◆ **Implemented creek restoration programs, weed removal projects and helped to conduct Rangeland Water Quality Shortcourses.**
- ◆ **Helped to install conservation practices and developed watershed conservation plans for landowners/farmers.**
- ◆ **Established several water quality-monitoring programs.**

These results show how the coordinators are helping to build the watershed management infrastructure necessary for healthy watersheds statewide. The watershed coordinators are meeting and exceeding the objectives outlined in their work plans. There are three months remaining in the grant program.

Cachuma Resource Conservation District

Santa Maria River and Cuyama River Watershed

Amount Funded: \$68,500

Match Provided: \$45,179

Additional Funding Obtained: \$108,000

Watershed Coordinator: Thomas Lockhart



Watershed Goal: To reduce off-site transport of water, sediment, and nutrients from farms and ranches.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assist three existing watershed working groups in implementing their watershed plans.

- The draft watershed plan is almost finished. It will be presented to the Oso Flaco Watershed Group in December 2003.
- Completed the San Antonio Watershed Plan and delivered it to the funding agency.
- Continued gathering field data for the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan.
- Seven presentations were made to landowners and grape growers on irrigation evaluation methods, scheduling techniques, and maintenance procedures. Three of the presentations were done in Spanish.
- Finished measuring nitrate concentrations at eight locations over a twelve month period. Information compared to historical data. Data incorporated into the Oso Flaco Creek watershed plan.
- Ten farmers representing 48 different ranches and over 7,000 acres in the Oso Flaco Creek Watershed have completed the mapping portion of their farm plans.
- Additional 18 irrigation evaluations were conducted, including 14 turf-grass evaluations, 1 avocado orchard, and three drip-irrigated vineyards.
- A trial was conducted on a broccoli field using the soil nitrate quick test to determine when to apply nitrogen fertilizer. The initial side dress application of nitrogen fertilizer was omitted from two 150-foot sections of planted bed. Harvest data indicated that nitrogen was lacking in the crop portion that was being managed. Additional trials will be done.
- Completed the San Antonio Creek watershed restoration plan.
- Completed two EQIP plans and are now being implemented on cattle ranching operations in San Antonio Creek Watershed.



Trial on a broccoli field to determine when to apply nitrogen.

- Participated in the UCCE Water Quality Short-course. Visited two vineyards and two ranching operations as a result of the course.
- Surveyed tree stream reaches of the Carpinteria Creek.
- Removal plans, specifications, and a bridge design for the Lions Club crossing in Carpinteria are completed.



Arundo donax in Carpinteria Creek

Performance Measure 1.1: Produce three watershed plans, which include conservation of water quality and water quantity.

- Oso Flaco Creek Watershed Plan is 75% complete.
- San Antonio Creek Watershed Plan is done.
- Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan is currently

Performance Measure 1.2: Decrease nitrate concentration by 20% in Oso Flaco Creek.

- The pre-sidedress soil nitrate quick test has been recommended to the farmers in the Oso Flaco Creek Watershed. It is expected that nitrates ending up in the Oso Flaco Creek will be reduced by 20%.

Performance Measure 1.3: Reduce sediment delivery into San Antonio Creek by 30%.

- The San Antonio Creek Plan contains recommendations that when implemented will achieve the 30% goal.

Performance Measure 1.4: Improve steelhead passage in Carpinteria Creek by 50%.

- There are five low-water crossings that have been identified for removal.

Objective 2: Oversee the start-up of two additional watershed working groups.

- Preliminary watershed plan has been prepared for the San Jose Creek watershed.
- Presented information on available services to flowers and greenhouse operators in the southern coastal portion of Santa Barbara County and Northern Ventura County.
- Assisted in providing 18 mobile irrigation lab evaluations.

Performance Measure 2.1: Draft two watershed plans, which include conservation of water quality and water quantity.

- Both the San Antonio Creek and the Oso Flaco Creek plans contain numerous water quality improvements and methods to conserve water.

Performance Measure 2.2: Improve conservation of water quantity and quality in two new watersheds by 20%.

- The irrigation mobile lab has provided seven water conservation workshops in three new watersheds.

Funding Received:

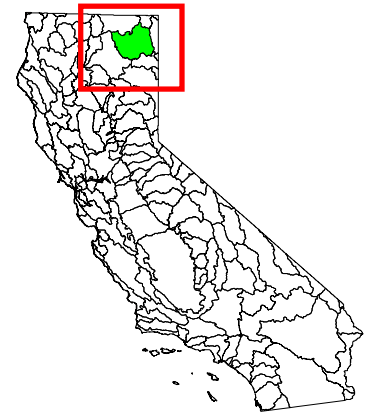
- A contract has been signed with the California State Parks to produce the Gaviota Watershed Plan Project (\$82,000).
- The California Coastal Conservancy awarded the district fund to conduct a hydrologic study of the lower reaches of the Santa Maria River (\$22,000).
- The Land Trust of Santa Barbara agreed to provide funding for the preparation of an erosion control plan for the Arroyo Hondo Creek Watershed (\$4,000).

Funding Pending:

- Submitted a Proposition 13 proposal to fund the implementation of the San Antonio Creek Watershed Plan (\$940,000).

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Upper Pit River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$66,400

Match Provided: \$18,100

Additional Funding Obtained: \$600,000

Watershed Coordinator: Cliff Harvey

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Goal 1: Contribute to watershed-wide assessment.

Objective 1: Support Pit River Watershed Alliance assessment project.

- The coordinator attended the two regularly scheduled PRWA meetings during this quarter.
- The coordinator provided input on watershed assessment drafts created by the contractor.

Performance Measure: Documentation of district input to assessment drafts, participation in nine team meetings.

- Since the first quarter, the coordinator has attended 9 team meetings.



Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, Alturas

Objective 2: Contribute to watershed wide GIS database.

- Consolidated past and current CMRCD watershed data. The coordinator plans to post this data to the CMRCD website in the next couple of weeks.

Performance Measure: Annual GIS Update, documentation of updates to SARE and ICE

Goal 2: Continue implementation of the CMRCD Monitoring Plan.

Objective 1: Collect, document and disseminate complete monitoring site data set for target parameters and locations.

- Helped the Pit River Watershed Alliance Monitoring Committee develop monitoring plans.
- Obtained access permission from numerous private landowners.

Performance Measure: Establish 10 monitoring sites, 50 independent photo points, and collect macroinvertebrate data for 10 tributaries.

Objective 2: Compile baseline vegetation data for project sites with emphasis on revegetation success and noxious weeds.

- Completed botanical surveys for 3 different re-vegetation projects. The coordinator is currently assisting with preparing survey reports.

Performance Measure: Revegetation data for two project sites.

Goal 3: Continued implementation of demonstration watershed restoration projects.

Objective 1: Initiate Proposition 13 Projects.

- Over a mile of riparian fencing was put in place over the summer. Re-vegetation work will begin in the spring.

Performance Measure: Completed signed Prop. 13 contract.

- This performance measure was met when the Prop. 13 contract was signed and work commenced on Feb. 1, 2003.

Objective 2: Initiate Cantara Foundation Projects.

- Obtained all necessary permits for the South Fork Pit River Talbott project. This project will result in a ¾-mile channel restoration. Most of the work on this project will be completed this fall.
- The Gleason Creek riparian fencing project was completed this quarter.
- Facilitated the installation of one mile of riparian fencing on the Pit River at the Heard and Valencia ranches. This fencing will limit livestock access to the Pit River.

Performance Measure: Approved and signed contract; Submitted permit applications and initial CEQA/NEPA documentation; Draft project design.

- The Scope of Work and contract were finalized and signed on September 30, 2003.
- Permits applications have been submitted and approved for the Weber Ranch-Parker Creek Project.
- Project designs have been drafted and finalized for the Weber Ranch-Parker Creek fish habitat structure and the Nader-Witcher Creek Restoration Project.
- Permits have been obtained for the South Fork Pit River Tallbott Project. Permit applications were also submitted for the Bushey Ranch project on Turner Creek.

Objective 3: Develop New Project Proposals.

- A pre-proposal for several new projects was submitted during the last quarter. If selected the proposal would fund an engineering assessment of bank erosion on the North Fork Pit River, treatment of a channelized reach of the South Fork Pit River, treatment and rehabilitation of a channelized portion of the main stem of the Pit River, riparian and wetlands restoration, and a livestock management project.

Performance Measure: Production of approved project design alternatives for all projects.



A channelized reach of the Pit River would be restored through collaborative efforts of private landowners and Modoc National Wildlife Refuge under a project proposal developed and submitted to the 2003 Consolidated State Watershed Grants by the Watershed Coordinator.

Channelized reach to be blocked and developed for wetlands and flood plain

Old channel to be rehabilitated

Goal 4: Ensure coordination of District programs with other watershed stakeholders.

Objective 1: Continue and improve coordination of UPRWEPP Technical Advisory Committee.

- Held the Summer Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on 8/12/2003.
- Disseminated the Summer TAC newsletter to over 150 stakeholders. The newsletter provided information about projects taking place within the watershed.
- Assisted the Pit River Watershed Alliance Coordinator with grant writing, project permitting, and coordination of efforts.

Performance Measure: Minutes of three TAC meetings. Complete six TAC newsletters.

Maintained TAC website link. Attend eight meetings of PRWA, MNWWG, documentation of cooperation with PRWA coordinator.

- The coordinator has conducted three TAC meetings, completed three TAC newsletters, attended seven Alliance meetings, and four Modoc County Noxious Weed Working Group meetings.

Goal 5: Ensure that all stakeholders are aware of and informed about watershed concepts and issues.

Objective 1: Link all CMRCD/UPRWEPP monitoring, assessment, and restoration projects to the CMRCD River Center education & outreach programs.

- Conducted site visits to Pit River Land and Cattle Co., the Silvestri property, and the Hagedorn/Morris property.
- Staffed the Modoc County Fair watershed booth to provide Modoc County residents with information about the Pit River watershed.

- Contacted the Modoc High Natural Resources Academy advisor to develop watershed education activities for the new school year.

Performance Measure: Facilitate preparation of 6 CRWQMPs; Assist in three K-12 watershed programs; Assist in 6 outreach events; Coordinate stream restoration workshop; 54 site visits.

- The coordinator has assisted with developing an educational program for high school students, conducted one watershed restoration workshop, assisted in three outreach events and conducted 27 site visits.

Goal 6: Ensure continuing implementation of CMRCD/UPRWEPP vision and goals.

Objective 1: Obtain funding for new and continuing projects and programs.

- During the last quarter, the coordinator submitted concept proposals to the Consolidated Watershed Grants RFP for a total of \$750,000. The coordinator was invited to prepare a full proposal for this grant.

Performance Measure: Preparation and submission of competitive grant proposals, and development of viable Scope of Work/contract documents for awarded grants.

- The coordinator has submitted a total of six grant applications, finalized a Prop. 13 scope of work, finalized a Cantara Foundation scope of work and started work on a Prop. 13 phase II scope of work.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

The coordinator submitted a proposal in response to the Consolidated Request for Proposals for \$750,000 to fund various watershed restoration activities. The coordinator will develop and submit a full proposal in October.

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Goose Lake, Upper & Lower Pit River Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$62,500

Match Provided: \$23,400

Additional Funding Obtained: \$260,000

Watershed Coordinator: James Rickert

Watershed Goal: Achieve long-term economic and environmental health through active community participation.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Improve communication among partners and stakeholders.

- Facilitated two Pit River Watershed Alliance meetings during this quarter.
- Initiated a Pit River Internet discussion group to allow for increased communication among watershed stakeholders.
- The coordinator has distributed at total of 437 PRWA brochures since the start of this grant.
- Attended a watershed restoration site visit at Turner Creek. This restoration site is a key monitoring location for the Pit River Watershed Monitoring Program.
- Meet with representatives from federal and state agencies to plan an irrigation agriculture water quality short course.



*Pit River Water Quality Monitoring
Field Day*

Performance Measure: Obtain and secure a total of 35 signatories on the Memorandum of Understanding.

- Since the first quarter, the coordinator has obtained three new signatories including the High Mountain Hay Growers, the Modoc County Noxious Weed Working Group, and the Fall River Wild Rice Growers Cooperative. The MOU now includes a total of 27 signatories.

Objective 2: Seek funding for Pit River Watershed Alliance to implement priority projects.

- Submitted a full proposal to the CALFED consolidated program. If selected for funding, this grant would focus on developing a Pit RCD Management Program. The management program would focus on developing and implementing a strategic watershed plan.
- Worked with representatives from the North Cal-Neva RC&D and CMRCD to develop a funding strategy for the Pit River Watershed “River Center.”

Performance Measure: Assist writing five funding proposals for priority projects in cooperation with Pit River Watershed Alliance stakeholders.

- The coordinator has submitted ten proposals since the first quarter.

Objective 3: Coordinate Pit River Watershed Alliance projects.

- Helped initiate the Pit River Water Quality Monitoring Program. The program includes a total of 52 monitoring sites on the main stem of the Pit River and 18 tributaries. Due to the success of the program, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board asked PRWA to expand their monitoring program to include the Fall River, a neighboring watershed.
- 12 water-quality monitoring sites were established in the Fall River watershed. Monitoring began in September.
- Held two Watershed Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee meetings.
- Held two Watershed Assessment Subcommittee meetings to provide the consultant with direction in the completion of the watershed assessment. The consultant has since developed a draft watershed assessment, which is currently being reviewed by the technical review team.
- Coordinated the PRWA Watershed Monitoring Field Day. This field day provided stakeholders with an opportunity to tour current monitoring locations on the Pit River and Ash Creek. Stakeholders and agencies also had the chance to exchange monitoring information and ideas.
- The coordinator is currently working on a watershed inventory of all restoration projects within the watershed.



PRWA contractor testing water quality on Fall River, Shasta County

Performance Measure: Three projects are identified.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

This quarter the coordinator submitted a full proposal for \$305,000 in response to the CALFED Consolidated Request for Proposals. This proposal would fund the development and implementation of a strategic watershed plan.

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District Central Coastal Watershed

Amount Funded: \$60,024

Match Provided: \$80,459

Additional Funding Obtained: \$268,990

Watershed Coordinator: Deborah Barker



Watershed Goal: Improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality in watersheds in the district.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Provide assistance for implementation of conservation practices that improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality.

- Completed a clear and snag project along Los Osos Creek.
- Finished a stabilization project of a gully and culvert along a county road.
- Installed cross fencing and water troughs as part of a livestock management project.
- Completed an access road to correct erosion on a gully within the San Luisito Creek.



Los Osos Creek, before project, blocked by debris from flooding



Completed clear and snag project. WC was instrumental in coordinating the project.

- Partially finished removing sediment along a quarter mile stretch of Los Osos Creek to prevent flooding and to protect steelhead habitat.
- Assisted in pruning willows from the center of Warden Creek to prevent further bank erosion.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners that participate in Cooperative Extension short courses (# over two courses). Number and extent of conservation practices installed (10). Number of growers who receive irrigation system evaluations. Amount of funding obtained for funding conservation practices (funding for 10 practices).

- Contacted 17 landowners.

- Installed eight conservation practices to date.
- Obtained one permit so far.
- Completed coordinated permitting program for Morro Bay Partners in Restoration

Objective 2: Support education and outreach to landowners and agency staff.

- Met with two additional landowners within Los Osos Valley.
- Worked with the Farm Bureau to coordinate groups that are developing water quality monitoring programs.
- Facilitated CCC Crew training in conservation practices, sediment reduction techniques, red leg frog identification, and watershed groups.

Performance Measure: Number of demonstration sites developed (2). Number of landowners who document or otherwise share the benefits of conservation practices (6). Number of people who participate in farm tours or field days (# over 3 tours). Number of regulatory referrals to the NRCS or the district (12).

- Established three demonstration projects on construction sites in Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach.
- Conducted three tours throughout the watershed.
- Provided NRCS with a regulatory referral in Nipomo.

Objective 3: Facilitate and improve coordination, collaboration, and assistance among governmental agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.

- Met with County Supervisor and discussed a course of action for sediment control on Arroyo Grande Creek.
- Set up conference between Flood Control Committee, SLO County Public Works, and State Department of Water Resources regarding relinquishment issues for the Flood Control District.
- Attended numerous meetings including the Morro Bay Pike Minnow Task Force meeting, Morro Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee and Implementation Committee meetings, and Arroyo Grande Watershed Forum Steering Committee meeting.

Performance Measure: Number of watershed stewardship groups that form through assistance from the watershed coordinator (3). Number of RCD board members who participate in watershed stewardship groups (3). Number of landowners who participate in watershed stewardship groups (6). Amount of funding obtained by watershed stewardship groups through assistance from the watershed coordinator (3 proposals submitted).

- Conducted three education events.
- Working on six farm/ranch plans.
- RCD members have attended 12 watershed stewardship group and/or governmental agency meetings.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:**Funding Received:**

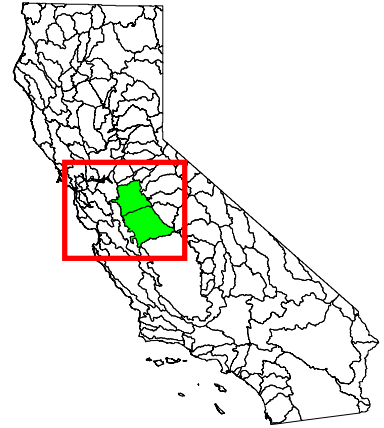
Received a grant from the SWRCB to fund a Watershed On-Farm Coastal Water Quality Implementation Project within the Arroyo Grande Creek (\$101,990).

Funding Pending:

Submitted a grant to the SWRCB for the Morro Bay On-Farm Implementation Project (\$500,000).

East Merced Resource Conservation District

Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus (Lower Merced portion) & Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$59,600

Match Provided: \$14,900

Additional Funding Obtained:

Watershed Coordinator: Teri Murrison

Watershed Goal: Preserve or enhance the Merced River and floodplain environment.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Metamorphosis of Merced River Stakeholders (MRS) Group from a single project focus to a watershed group.

- Prepared media briefing materials for and conducted tour of Lower Merced River watershed. More than a dozen interested citizens made stops along the river, including at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Merced Rivers, the Bettencourt Ranch, Henderson Park and the new Exchequer Dam.
- Attended Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interest and Merced Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel meetings.
- Attended CALFED Bay Delta Watershed Public Advisory Committee and California Watershed Council meetings in Sacramento.
- Conducted field visit to landowners on Dry Creek who are experiencing heavy sedimentation.
- Attended Adopt-A-Watershed Leadership Institute.
- Grant proposal submitted to SWRCB for the Consolidated RFP was selected for the full proposal phase of the selection process.



Touring the Lower Merced River

Performance Measures: 1) MRS remains viable watershed group with average active participation of 35 stakeholders; 2) Provide staffing for 12 monthly meetings; 3) Adopt mission, goals and objectives by June 2003; 4) Participation of at least 15 MRS members at each of two field days with implementation of prescribed practices by five stakeholders after each event; 5) Submit at least three grant applications for continued funding of stakeholder group.

Objective 2: Implement voluntary individual water quality monitoring program on Lower Merced watershed.

- Arranged to have a NRCS technical specialist participate in the water quality monitoring program scheduled for after harvest.
- Prepared full proposal to submit to CALFED/SWRCB's Proposition 13 grant program.

Performance Measures: 1) Provide 30 stakeholders with water monitoring training and monitoring kits by August 2003 then complete a survey of same 30 stakeholders by October 2003 to verify that at least 10 have adopted BMPs for water quality by comparing monitoring results; 2) Submit at least one grant application to fund a school-based water quality monitoring project by May 2003.

Objective 3: Administer watershed coordinator grant program.

- Attended DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Workshop in Fresno.

Performance Measures: 1) Prepare and submit quarterly reports to DOC; 2) Attend CARCD annual meeting; 3) Submit at least one grant application for continued funding of watershed coordinator position.

East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District

Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus
& Panoche-San Luis Reservoir Watershed



Amount Funded: \$44,986

Match Provided: \$28,425

Additional Funding Obtained: \$475,000

Watershed Coordinator: Audrey Johnson (replaced Norman Crow in July 2003)

Watershed Goal: To improve water use efficiency, water quality, riparian health and ecosystem quality in the watersheds in the district.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assisting the East Stanislaus RCD and West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- Facilitated cooperative agreement between East Stanislaus RCD and East San Joaquin Valley Water Coalition (ESJVWC) to educate local farmers about the Regional Water Quality Control Board's agricultural waiver guidelines. The watershed coordinator was selected to serve on the technical advisory committee for the ESJVWC.
- Provided assistance in the grant process for the development of a dairy waste management research project. The project is the result of a partnership between East Stanislaus RCD, UC Cooperative Extension and Marsha Campbell-Mathews.

Performance Measure: Number of new stakeholders attending annual and workshop meetings (22). Number of referrals seeking information or assistance from NRCS or the RCDs.

Objective 2: Provide assistance for implementation of conservation practices that improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality.

- The watershed coordinator continues to work with Power Hydrodynamics to implement the TIMS irrigation management system with West Stanislaus growers. Power Hydrodynamics will continue installing moisture probes and collecting moisture data at reduced rates for landowners on the west side.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners that participate in irrigation scheduling short course (1 workshop). Number and extent of conservation practices installed (10 practices). Number of growers who participate in irrigation evaluations (18). Amount of funding obtained for funding conservation practices and future funding of Total Irrigation Management (1 proposal submitted).

Objective 3: Assisting West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- West Stanislaus RCD has partnered with Diablo Grande to assist managers in the protection of conservation easements. The watershed coordinator is providing monitoring services for the easements and advice on conservation practices.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners who form into a watershed stewardship group (8 land-owners). Amount of funding obtained by watershed stewardship group (1 proposal submitted).

Objective 4: Assisting the East Stanislaus RCD and West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- East Stanislaus RCD partnered with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to install flow and salinity monitoring stations within the local area. All of the monitoring sites have been selected and monitoring devices have been ordered.

Performance Measure: Number of monitoring sites developed (15). Establish database for flow and salinity of drains into the San Joaquin River.